

The Polish Review

POLAND FIGHTS

VOL. II, No. 43

NEW YORK, N. Y., DECEMBER 7, 1942

PRICE TEN CENTS

GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI



POLISH PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

THE PROBLEM OF THE BALTIC

By DR. HENRYK STRASBURGER

LOW-LYING shores, sudden storms . . . innumerable shallows and islands, long interruptions of navigation by ice . . . scarcity of fish and wealth of amber . . . In the straitness of its single natural gate-way it is surpassed among European waters only by the Black Sea" — that is how the Baltic is described by W. F. Reddaway in his book, "*Problem of the Baltic*."

There are other seas and oceans that as world maritime highways are more important than the Baltic. The Baltic is a dividing line between States, — not between continents as the Mediterranean or the Red Sea.

It is now virtually a German lake for Germany commands access to and egress from it by her ownership of the Kiel Canal and control of the narrow inlet, the Skagerrack.

The political situation created on the Baltic after the last war was not based on sound foundations. It was the result of a compromise, rather than of a definite political conception. The peace treaties concluded with Germany and Russia restored or gave their independence to several nations on the southern and eastern coasts of the Baltic, i.e., Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Finland.

The treaties that created this new state of affairs were based on the weakness or on the mutual antagonism of the greatest Baltic powers, Germany and Russia; but they hardly gave the new Baltic States a sufficiently strong basis for existence. The largest of these States, Poland, obtained only a small and strategically poor base on the Baltic.

Poland was linked to the Baltic by the narrow belt of Pomerania, some sixty miles broad at its southern end, and a little more than twenty at its northern end (if we exclude the Hel Peninsula). Poland's actual seacoast, excluding the Hel Peninsula, is forty-four miles in length. At the same time Poland acquired a number of economic and political rights in the area of the Free City of Danzig. These were the inclusion of the Free City of Danzig in the Polish customs area, the administration of the city railways, joint administration of the port, Polish administration of Danzig's foreign affairs, etc.

The seacoast of the Free City is about sixty-two miles in length. This settlement was an attempt to reconcile Poland's economic and political needs with the national viewpoint of the people in Danzig, who were predominantly German. Thus Danzig was separated from Germany, but was not given to Poland.

As might have been expected this settlement failed to stand the test of experience, although Poland did everything possible to make it work. This, I believe, was because German propaganda succeeded in convincing the people of Danzig that the settlement made by the Treaty of Versailles was not final, and that a change was bound to come in the status of the Free City.

Free access to the sea is for the Baltic countries the primordial condition for the fulfilment of article 4 of the Atlantic Charter, to enable them to obtain "access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity."

It is not right that the key to a house inhabited by many people should be kept by one of the tenants, and be used by him according to his whim. From the day the Kiel Canal was deepened, the actual authority over all the approaches leading to the Baltic, including Canals, the Sound and the Belt, were in German hands.

To discuss ways and means of ensuring the freedom of Baltic approaches, would carry me too far, but I should like very briefly to express a few ideas. I think that both banks of the Kiel Canal should be taken from Germany and given to Denmark. I think naval and air bases should also be established at the approaches to the Baltic. The question arises whether political control of the narrows should not be transferred to an international body, comprising all the Baltic States, excluding Germany for the time being.

Such an international Baltic Commission would develop means to prevent any violation of the status of the narrows. It would supervise the exploitation of the Kiel Canal and exercise control over navigation in the Canal and the narrows. Such a solution would undoubtedly create in the Baltic Countries an understanding of their common interest, and perhaps give rise to wider cooperation, ultimately leading to federation.

The general outlines of the new world have been determined by the great Atlantic Charter. However, to apply its principles to each practical problem will require much effort and thought. In certain cases particular sections of the Atlantic Charter may seem at variance with one another and may even point to contradictory solutions. On the shores of the Baltic national exigencies, strategic and economic aspects and most important of all, the maintenance of peace, will all have to be taken into account.

So far all these various Baltic problems have been dealt with separately. I have tried to look upon them as a whole, as a single Baltic problem. I have no doubt that we shall find a permanent and just solution of this problem in a New Baltic Charter.

General Sikorski Speaks to France

General Sikorski has broadcast the following statement to France and it has been repeated by the British Broadcasting Corporation in a number of languages:

"We Poles are deeply moved by the news of the heroic and tragic action of the French sailors in Toulon who preferred to scuttle their ships rather than to hand them over to the enemy, thus paying with their lives for the defense and honor of their fleet. I am convinced that this act of self-sacrifice will become one of the most memorable moments in the fight for the liberation of France, that it will unite the entire great French nation in their love for their motherland, that it will strengthen their will to resist the merciless and lying enemy, now oppressing so many nations in Europe.

"In the name of the Polish Government and of Poland's armed forces, I pay homage to our fighting and suffering sister nation."

Premier Stalin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Molotov have sent the following messages to General Sikorski and to Count Raczynski.

From Premier Stalin to General Sikorski:

"Thank you for your wishes on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Soviet State. I share your hopes that the realization of the principles of friendship and mutual help in the common interests in our fight against the German invader expressed in our declaration will undoubtedly ensure lasting friendship and good neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and a reborn Polish Republic."

From Russian Foreign Minister Molotov to Polish Foreign Minister Raczynski:

"Please accept my cordial thanks for your friendly wishes on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Soviet State. I share fully your convictions that our nations' common struggle against Hitlerite Germany will ensure lasting relations full of mutual trust between the Soviet Union and a Poland restored to independence."

General Sikorski recently held an important conference with all the High Commanding Officers of the Polish armed forces in the presence of General Klimecki, Chief of Staff of the Polish Army.

This war council was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Mikolajczyk, who as Minister of the Interior addressed the conference on the underground movement in Poland and its readiness to take action at the appropriate time. The Commander-in-Chief expressed his complete satisfaction with the state of Poland's armed forces and his reliance on them to acquire themselves worthily of the difficult task that lies ahead.

General Sikorski also had long conferences with his deputy Prime Minister concerning the despatch of current affairs.

FOR 50 YEARS POLES HAVE HAD SOCIALIST PARTY

London, Dec. —: On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Polish Socialist Party, a meeting was held in London. Minister Kwapinski, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish Socialist Party presided. Minister Stanczyk and Mr. Ciolkosz addressed the gathering. The Polish Government was represented by Ministers Komarnicki, Mikolajczyk, Popiel, Raczynski, Seyda and Stronski. General Sikorski and Madame Sikorska cabled greetings saying:

"We bow before the heroes of the Polish Socialist Party who gave their lives in the service of Poland and before those continuing with greatest devotion in the merciless struggle which the whole Polish nation is waging since September 1939. We convey to the Polish Socialist Party on the occasion of its 50th anniversary our best wishes."

Telegrams were also received from the Peasant Party and Democratic Party. The Peasant Party said:

"The future of Poland must satisfy demands of the great majority of her population of many millions of Polish workers and Polish peasants. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary we convey to the Polish Socialist Party, the peasants' greetings and express our deep appreciation to Polish workers in Poland as well as our assurance that in the future as in the past the Polish Socialist Party and the Peasant Party will unite in sincere collaboration and struggle together for the liberation of their homeland, of making Poland a genuinely democratic and a politically, socially and economically just country."

POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA MOURN YOUTH

London, Dec. —: At a large meeting in commemoration of Yugoslav youth murdered by Germans in Kragujevac, King Peter and numerous representatives of British and Allied Governments and youth leaders were present.

The Polish Government was represented by Minister of Information Stronski, who addressed the gathering saying that

"Nobody on earth has a better understanding than the Poles of what Yugoslavia is going through, because we know that things which appear impossible or exaggerated to other nations, are unfortunately only too true. We know from our own bitter experience. The same crimes were and are committed by Germans in Poland.

"At the very outset of the war, the Germans shot more than a hundred peasant boys, thirteen to fifteen years old on the church steps in Stary Rynek. They died singing '*Boze Cos Polskie*.' But why dwell upon German atrocities against Polish children and youth, it is even more important that everyone should realize that small Polish children get only a quarter or a fifth of the milk allowed to German children. No wonder that Prime Minister Churchill in one of his speeches put Poland, Yugoslavia and Russia at the head of the countries that have suffered most from German atrocities."

HUMAN SLAUGHTER HOUSES

POLES NOW OCCUPY NAZI BUNGALOWS

About 8,000 Polish civilian refugees from Russia, mostly women and children, are now recuperating in Uganda and Tanganyika. Each settlement has a British commander responsible for the organization and administration of the camp, who will be replaced by a Pole as soon as the refugees become better acquainted with local conditions.

In one place in Tanganyika, a German Lutheran Congregation was established in luxurious bungalows surrounded by beautiful gardens and orchards. It was soon discovered that the main job of the pious missionaries was to teach negroes that Hitler is the only God and the greatest devil is the Englishman. Now the Germans are in a concentration camp and the bungalows have been handed over to Poles who were told to consider them as initial "reparation" for destroyed Polish villages.

GERMAN JUSTICE

A German court in Poznan has sentenced Ryszard Kucielak, 20 years old, to death because with three other Poles, he had formed part of a firing squad that executed four *Volksdeutsche* who acted as fifth columnists in September, 1939.

HITTLER'S order that half of the Jews remaining in Poland must be exterminated before the end of the year, means that one million human beings are to be murdered in cold blood, the greatest holocaust in history. Incredible as it may seem, the following dispatch from London confirms the ghastly methods used by the Germans to do away with these defenseless men, women and children.

POISON GAS, ELECTROCUTION, USED TO KILL 1,000,000 JEWS

London, Dec. —: Information received from both Polish and German sources confirm the existence of human slaughter houses used by the Germans for the mass killing of Jews in accordance with Hitler's order to exterminate half the Jews remaining in Poland before the end of the year!

In these slaughter houses, men women and children are put to death by technical means. Mass killings are effected principally by poison gas and electrocution. The first of such human slaughter houses was organized in Kowno, capital of Lithuania, where Poles, many of them of Jewish faith, were killed. Another one is functioning at Belzec where in a large building, both electrocution and lethal gas chambers are used. Belzec is about 60 miles from Lwow in Poland.

The method used for electrocution is the following: The victims are ordered to strip naked "to have a bath". They are then huddled into a large barrack with a metal floor. The door is locked and an electric current turned on. They die in agony. When the current is turned

off the bodies are loaded on cars and dumped into a mass grave.

In addition to machine gun squads, electrocution and lethal gas, Poles are also packed into locked freight cars 50 or 60 in a car, and long trains of these cars are driven into the country and left on sidings where the people in them die as the Germans say, "good and slow."

At least a million Polish Jews have been killed in Poland in these human slaughter houses, this in addition to 200,000 Poles who have been executed, another 200,000 murdered and innumerable others scientifically starved to death or allowed to die of disease without medical care.

We believe that the guilty must be punished. But we must definitely abandon the idea of retribution on the same scale as the murders the Germans have committed. The United Nations will have no desire to murder Germans in the same numbers nor in the same methodical manner, but those responsible will have to pay the penalty for their crimes.

TERROR OF HITLER'S "NEW ORDER" IN POLAND CONTINUES UNABATED

The German governor of Lwow has issued new regulations forbidding Jews to enter any market places.

V.V.V.

A German court in Katowice sentenced a Pole, Roman Kardas, aged 29, to death for illegal possession of arms.

V.V.V.

Eighteen carloads of archives from Vilna taken by the Russians to Minsk in 1939 have been brought back to Vilna by the Germans.

V.V.V.

On November 16th, Tadeusz Szelegowski of Sanok and Metody Smalek of Lwow, were executed in Danzig for anti-German espionage in Danzig from 1936 to 1939.

V.V.V.

In an engagement between Polish guerrillas and German police in the woods near Breskowice, a Pole, Franciszek Lelonek, was killed. The German police had put a price of a thousand marks upon his head.

In Wielkowiczko near Blachowania, five Polish guerrillas attacked and demolished a store belonging to a German settler, George Heuchert. The German police offered a 5,000-mark reward for information leading to the arrest of the guilty parties.

V.V.V.

A German court in Grudziadz has sentenced a 60-year-old locksmith, Stanislaw Bartoczynski, to three years severest *Straflager* camp for whispering that the chances for Polish independence were better, and that he prefers twenty Jews to one German.

V.V.V.

Bronislaw Redzinski of Grudziadz was sentenced to six years severest *Straflager* for the theft of a cup belonging to a German soldier and a small piece of leather from an old military car. The judge said that Redzinski escaped the death penalty only because the car was in very bad state.

The German Mayor of Laszczyn Tomaszewski, Emil Wichmann, was killed recently by Polish guerrillas when returning from a meeting. His obituary notice published in the *Krakauer Zeitung* says that his assailants have not been discovered.

V.V.V.

German teachers are being appointed to primary schools in Eastern Poland. Candidates must be German citizens and take an oath that there are no Poles in their families. The sole qualification is a knowledge of the German language and arithmetic. All Polish children born from 1929 to 1934 will be sent to schools manned by these "teachers."

V.V.V.

A German court in Grudziadz sentenced a 15-year-old Polish servant girl to eighteen months *Straflager* for stealing cigarettes. The judge said the court did not take her age into consideration adding: "If punishment will not improve this Polish girl's character, other methods will be applied to teach her the German New Order."

Gauleiter Greiser has boasted that the Western provinces of Poland illegally "incorporated" in the Reich exported to Germany in 1942, 700,000 tons of grain and the same amount of potatoes. Greiser's statement shows to what extent the German authorities are starving Polish territories to supply food to the Reich.

V.V.V.

German police surrounded a farm in the district of Zduny near Starograd, where three Polish guerrillas, one a woman named Kowalska, were in hiding. One of the Poles, Steinke, was seriously wounded and fell into German hands, while Kowalska and Kupsc set fire to the barn and were burnt to death.

V.V.V.

Lustz Mackensen, professor at the "German" University at Poznan, has introduced a new degree "*Volks-wissenschaftsdoktor*," for scientific study of the Nazi doctrine. The Germans hope that Poznan University will contribute to uniting the former Prussian and Russian parts of Poland "where a new German race is rising, composed of Volks-deutsche and new German settlers."

An excerpt from the address by Mr. Henry Strasburger, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Poland.

EUROPE MORE DIVIDED NOW THAN AT ANY TIME IN HISTORY

FROM statements made by responsible statesmen of the United Nations, it is clear that the basis of post-war world reconstruction must be international solidarity. International solidarity means that every nation will regard the prosperity of every other nation as being in its own interest. "Internationalism is the socialism of nations" says H. G. Wells. We want international solidarity not merely in words, but as the basic foundation for economic action. This is just the opposite of the German views on post-war problems. To Germans the idea of international solidarity is abhorrent. What they want is German hegemony.

German hegemony is something so shocking and so divorced from all Christian principles, that it is difficult to believe in the existence of such an idea. But we have the words of Hermann Goering in his broadcast to the German nation on October 5th, 1942: — "I am absolutely determined to observe rigorously the principle,—which from now on becomes an axiom—that so far as satisfying of hunger is concerned and the provision of food in general, the German nation comes first and before anyone else. I want everybody to know that if there is going to be hunger, in no circumstances will it be in Germany." How different are the United Nations' views on these matters.

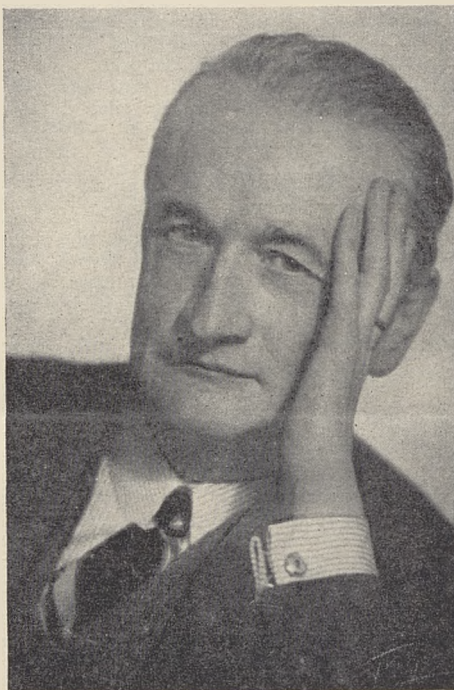
The Inter-Allied Conference held in London at St. James' Palace, of which I was a member, laid down in its resolution dealing with post-war supplies to occupied European countries, that the plans of the respective Governments "should be coordinated in a spirit of interallied collaboration, for the successful achievement of the common aims." Since then the common cause of the United Nations has been enormously strengthened: soon we shall witness the first anniversary of an all-important event in the history of the war and indeed of mankind: — on December 9th, 1941, the United States entered the war and together with Great Britain took over the leadership of the United Nations fighting for freedom.

The post-war period may roughly be divided into three periods:

- 1) — A demobilization period will begin as soon as hostilities cease in Europe, when hungry and exhausted nations will need every kind of help, without being able to give anything in exchange.
- 2) — A rehabilitation period, marked by a gradual return to normal economic conditions, and
- 3) — A reconstruction period, when the main problem will be to raise the standard of living in economically backward countries.

In the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities, a certain international solidarity of interests will already appear. The complete lack of certain essential commodities in some countries will be offset by surpluses of these same articles elsewhere, large stocks having been piled up owing to the loss of export markets. The help given in combatting disease in one country, will protect other countries from the spreading of epidemics. And on the higher level of human solidarity, nations giving help will undoubtedly be prompted by the noble impulse to assist the countries that have been so terribly tried by war and enemy occupation. Gratitude to the United States for the aid so generously given after the last war has

never died out in Europe.



When speaking of post-war assistance to Europe, now reduced to the utmost depths of misery and degradation, we must picture to ourselves what Europe will look like after the fall of Germany. Reports, as accurate as possible, are now being prepared on that subject. In this connection, one fairly common belief must be rectified. The idea is prevalent that Hitler perhaps even despite himself, has done one great thing, that he has united Europe and abolished her internal frontiers. This is completely untrue. Frontiers and trade barriers still exist, even more numerous than before and many are entirely new! Customs, quotas and exchange restrictions apply everywhere where new political frontiers have been established. The frontier between Poland and Germany now runs through the middle of Poland, between the so-called Government-General and the western provinces of Poland illegally "incorporated" in the Reich. There are new economic frontiers between Serbia and

Croatia, between the Czecho-Moravian Protectorate and the Sudetenland, "incorporated" in Germany. Such frontiers also divide all the occupied countries that have retained a nominal political independence. The "New Order" has no intention whatever of abolishing these barriers. In an Europe, subservient to Germany, there are to be areas with low and areas with high prices, areas with various standards of living. These areas will be separated by customs tariffs and exchange restrictions.

Entirely new barriers have also made their appearance: national and racial barriers, in particular the walls of the ghettos! Newly erected boundries run through the center of towns having Jewish inhabitants, and none, Jews nor Gentile, may cross them without a special permit. Jews who pass these walls without authority are sentenced to death. These death sentences, passed by German special courts are later posted on the ghetto walls, that all may read, learn and be warned! These new kinds of barriers and frontiers make Europe more divided now than at any time in history.

I WAS A PRISONER OF THE GESTAPO

... Obviously all the prisoners were in continual anxiety as to their fate, especially when one or another of them disappeared, to be shot or taken to a concentration camp. Worst of all was the continual fear that it would be my turn next, and the fact that we never knew when the Gestapo would drop in. So we took it in turns to stand and listen by the small hole in the door through which the guard looked from time to time. If we heard cries coming from another cell or from the corridor we knew that the Gestapo-men were on their way.

We were always hungry for news of the outside world. It reached us in roundabout ways, through the Ukrainian guards or through the Gestapo-men themselves. I remember how one day the Gestapo-men came into our cell cheering, because Chamberlain was dead. "The devil's got him," they said, "that idiot with his umbrella." In this way we also learned of the obstinate struggle in Greece and the heroism of the Greeks, which we naturally made the most of when passing on the news. We dreamed that our troops would get to Poland through Greece. We had only to hold out a little longer, only a few more weeks.

Churchill's name was magic to us. When we were under examination the Germans always took the opportunity to sneer, calling him *Dicker* (fat) because of his cigar. They brought us copies of the *Stürmer* and showed us caricatures of Churchill and President Roosevelt. When they went out after beating us on the face and kicking us, I remember my comrades saying: "Let Churchill give them a cigar, and they'll remember it all their lives." I can say that his name was among our greatest encouragements to hold on, that it was a kind of moral support to us in that hopeless waiting for death.

We occupied ourselves with continually and thoroughly cleaning out our cell, searching out every spot on the window-panes, on the floor or walls, mending our prison clothing, searching for vermin, and even playing chess, though we had no chessmen. We were not allowed to write, and we were not allowed to possess a pencil. But we had a pencil and paper hidden in a mattress, we had a piece of wood, with iron, glass, and bits of rag in a box, which served as flint and tinder when we managed to get hold of a cigarette somewhere. If anyone had a sweater, shirt or other clothing to spare he swapped it for eight portions of bread. These transactions were carried on while getting our bowls of soup from the criminal prisoners, who worked in the kitchen. Only criminal prisoners were allowed to work there.

For some time there was a youngster in our cell who knew a certain amount of English. At times which were quite safe, we gathered in a crowd in one corner of the

cell and learned English words to prepare ourselves for the day when the English came and it would be necessary to show them Poland, as our teacher said. Unfortunately, after some weeks he was taken out to be shot.

We were hungry for books and periodicals. We had two books: Goszczynski's *Zamek Kaniowski* and a novel by Mayne Reid. We knew these two books almost by heart. But we had to keep them well hidden in a mattress, to prevent the Gestapo men finding them when making a search. My comrades asked me again and again to write a hymn for the prisoners. I don't know how I managed to compose it, but I did so. It read:

Poland prostrate lies and bleeding;
Murder, fire, starvation, tears;
Yet she has not perished ever,

Still her young lions
vanquish fears.

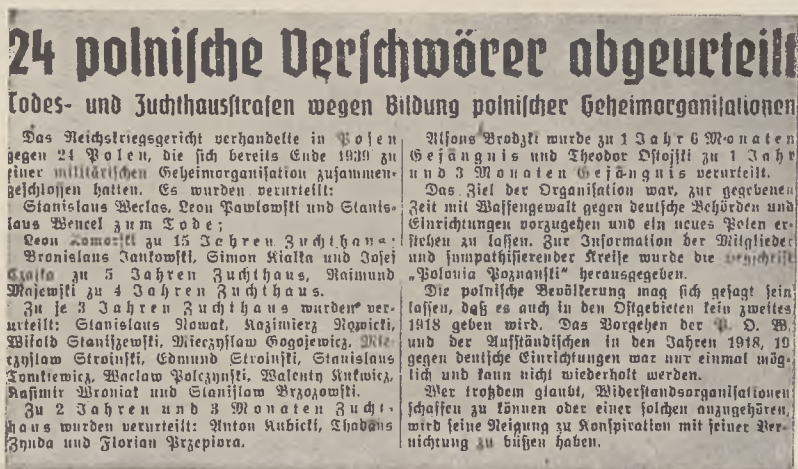
Though the enemy
fills the dungeons,
Though our bodies fill
the graves,
Spirits high, be Will
triumphant!
He our fathers wor-
shipped saves.

In this town, by bars
imprisoned,
Sing we, brothers, one
and all;
Vengeance on the Ger-
man tyrants!
Swastika 'neath Cross
shall fall.

Almost all the prisoners learned this song by heart. I remember that some, deluding themselves that they were not being taken out to be shot, but were going to do forced labor, wrote it down on scraps of our unusually valuable paper, rolled it into a little ball and put it in their mouths, or thrust it deep into one corner of their pockets, intending to carry it out and teach others.

At first all the priests in the prison, over a dozen of them, were kept in one cell, which was called the "vicarage." But later the Gestapo men did away with the "vicarage" and distributed the priests into the other cells, declaring that they were to be treated like any other prisoners. In our cell was put prelate N. The Germans showed particular attention to the prelate, and forced him to go without his robe when in the cell, so that the only mark to distinguish him as a priest was his clerical collar. The Gestapo men nicknamed him *Dicker* (fatty) Churchill. We knew that when they began to amuse themselves with the priest we others would be saved much maltreatment and beating. They always declared that he had a hidden wireless set and listened to Churchill. "*Na, Dicker, du hast Churchill gehoert.*" For that matter they called every elderly and bulky man Churchill, and the prelate was stocky and stout. Once they treated the prelate to a cigarette, telling him that Churchill smoked cigars. When he put the cigarette to his lips a Gestapo man struck him on the face, saying: "*Na, du dicker Churchill, eine Ohrfeige*

(Please turn to page 8)



24 Poles in Poznan were sentenced to death for an alleged conspiracy. The German Special Court stated that "everyone who believes in resistance will be destroyed."



"HUSARZ" by L. Wyczolkowski

SINCE the dawn of history, Poland's untoward geographical position has laid her open to attack from all sides. So although Poland, prior to 1920, never had a large standing army, preferring to call for volunteers whenever the need for national defense arose, these emergencies recurred so frequently, that the Polish citizen's every-day dress bore witness to the time he spent on the field of battle. After all, a soldier is only a civilian garbed in a particular manner, and until

quite recent days peaceful citizens carried weapons. The sword is probably the most interesting symbol of military influence upon male dress. The 16th century saw its introduction as an indispensable accessory of a gentleman's attire and to this day, with the horse, it remains a Polish tradition. The favorite weapon of the Pole, his companion at home and abroad, at church, in Parliament, at funerals and banquets alike, the sword was handed down from father to son.

Swords were of many kinds and had names determined by their form or depending on the period of their manufacture. Thus, each Polish King gave his name to the swords fashioned during his reign. Those made under Batory were known as *batorowkas*, under Zygmunt as *zygmuntowkas*, under Augustus as *augustowkas*, etc. As a rule, royal portraits or monograms were incrustated or engraved on their blades.

Then there were the *koncerz*, derived from the Turkish kanjar, a heavy sabre attached to the trappings of a horse; the *palasz*, *kord*, or *multanka* was a double-edged rapier with a long, straight blade. The most prevalent weapon, however, was the common sabre, with a slightly curved blade, double edged only in its last third. Although there were a number of very curved Turkish simitars in existence, the Poles tended to reject them as unsuited to fencing.

The Polish costume sword is called a *karabela*. This term entered the Polish language in 1496, when a certain Karabela attended court carrying a very light and elegant drawing-room rapier, more decorative than useful.

From the early 16th to the end of the 18th century the Polish sword underwent an evolution. The fusion of Eastern and Western elements forged a national native type which in time became

the model for the light cavalry sabre of most European armies.

In general, however, whether the Polish sword had a closed or open hilt, whether its blade was straight or curved, wide or narrow, furrowed or plain — it stood out by virtue of its ornamentation. In Italy, France and Germany the armorer forged the sword and scabbard and then decorated them with sculpture, niello-work or incrustation. In Poland the sword was forged by master craftsmen belonging to the famed guilds of Lwow, Krakow, Luck, Staszow, etc. and decorated by goldsmiths and jewelers. Many a rare work of art resulted, worthy of inclusion in any museum. It is a matter of record that the voivode of Smolensk paid a Lublin goldsmith the equivalent of a thousand American dollars for the labor involved in decorating a sword for him. What then must the voivode have paid for the materials used, for we know that the sword was mounted in pure gold, enamelled and studded with diamonds and rubies the size of almonds.

Such swords reflected the Poles' innate love of splendor, constantly kept alive by contact with the East, famed for the fantastic wealth of its bejewelled arms. Old inventories speak of sterling silver, heavily gold-plated helmets, morions studded with precious stones. The wealthier gentry boasted of full armor in silver. Two Polish kings in particular, Zygmunt Augustus and Jan Sobieski, were ardent admirers of sumptuous and beautiful weapons. The former had trappings for thirty chargers embroidered in pure gold and studded with precious stones, and twenty exceptionally rich suits of armor, embellished by Italian armorers for whose skill the Venetian envoy could not find enough words of praise in 1560. Jan III had a weakness for painted weapons of the Eastern type. It was this king who brought about the revival of Turkish influences



CEREMONIAL PROCESSION OF POLISH DELEGATION. The traditional shield, *koncerz*, *sajdak* and *czekan*, are fastened to the horse's trappings.

in Poland, for his great victories over the Turks toward the end of the 17th century, inundated the country with rich spoils. Eastern arms, housings and trappings, garments, carpets, vessels, and utensils filled not only the castles of magnates but also the less pretentious homes of the gentry, imparting a definitely Islamic character to dress and interiors.

Another peculiarly Polish decorative weapon of the 16th and

17th century gentleman was the *sajdak*, or quiver. Despite the introduction of firearms, the bow and arrow remained in use for quite some time. Later the *sajdak* became a traditional part of the gentleman's costume. It was fashioned from leather, wood or metal. Leather *sajdaks* were adorned with drawn gold or silver embroidery. Wooden *sajdaks* were covered with silver plating or velvet and were variously ornamented. Gold and silver made a dazzling *sajdak*, especially when studded with turquoise, garnets and other precious gems.

Important in medieval times was the buckler which the warrior used to ward off enemy blows. In Poland the buckler gave rise to the *kalkan*, a shield woven from fig-twigs wrapped in colored and figured silk. The metal center was forged from pure gold or silver and was decorated with precious stones. This bejewelled *kalkan*, could hardly serve the practical ends of self-defense. The gentleman hung it over his bed under the *ryngraf*, or breastplate, bearing a painted or engraved image of Our Lady of Czenstochowa. On ceremonious occasions it dangled at the horse's side and was invariably suspended beneath a head-dress beplumed with white feathers in front of the hetman's tent.

Particularly interesting was the *czekan*, the Polish version of the long mace, used by horsemen in France and Germany. In Poland it served both as a weapon and a walking stick. A thin, long shaft with an iron hammer and axe at one end and a sharp point at the other, it was usually very fancy, and bound with silver or steel wire. That it could be a most fearsome means of lending point to a discussion is shown by the fact that three constitutions — in 1578, 1601 and 1620 — decreed a heavy fine upon anyone found carrying a *czekan* in a public place.

Other representative and truly splendid articles of war were the costly batons and *buzdygans*. The baton was originally a real weapon, the short war-mace. In time it became a symbol of military hierarchy and, in Poland, finally lost even this meaning. Old inventories, portraits, and chronicles convey the impression that batons formed part of every noble home, even though strictly speaking only the military chiefs had a right to them, as field marshals have today. Batons did not vary

much in shape. They were a short staff, topped with a ball, sometimes egg-shaped.

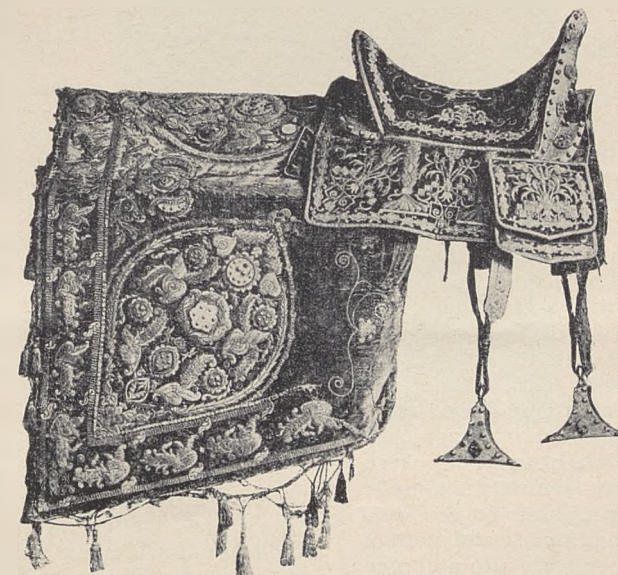
The *buzdygan*, on the other hand, had many forms. Its basic one was a cluster of 6 or 7 variously shaped plumes set into the rod-shaped stem. At other times the head was pear shaped, lantern shaped or scepter-like. It too was a badge of military authority used by lesser officers such as captains, lieutenants and cadets, and in case of need came in handy as a cudgel.

Batons and *buzdygans* alike were richly ornamented. An inventory of the Voivode Stadnicki from 1699 mentions several "silver *buzdygans*, gold plated, studded with rubies and turquoises, with plumes whose tips are wrought into the shape of asps."

Poles always bore great affection for their steeds. They pampered them and sought to enhance their beauty by fine trappings. The trappings shown on this page



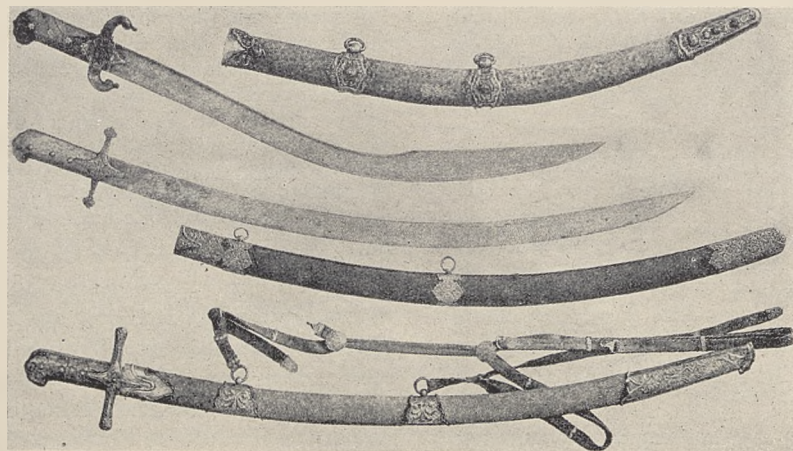
POLISH ARMOR



Caparison of the horse of Hetman Stefan Czarniecki (XVII c.)

were at one time the property of Hetman Stefan Czarniecki. Shown at an international exhibit of Mohammedan art, their gold-spun texture, rich embroidery, jewels, plumes and horsehair combined to make a fine display of splendor and color.

It was a custom in olden Poland, when Krakow was still the capital, that at every ceremonious entrance into the city, whether the occasion was a coronation or royal burial, or to welcome returning warriors or foreign envoys, the procession proper was followed by riderless horses, literally covered with gold embroidered tapestries, ostrich feathers, silver stirrups, etc. To each housing was attached a shield, *koncerz*, *sajdak*, and *czekan*, gleaming in the rays of the sun. To create a more



POLISH SWORDS

(Continued from page 5)

schmeckt gut." (Here, fatty Churchill, a box on the ears tastes good.) They frequently organized spectacles with the priest as central figure, while I had to take part as interpreter. "*Na, dicker, hast du schon Churchill gehoert, er spricht schon, er ist ein feiner Mann.*" (Well, fatty, you've already heard Churchill, he's a good speaker, he's a fine man.) Through me the priest explained that he had never heard Churchill, for he did not possess a wireless set. They only struck him in the face and kicked him till he dropped.

Because of these continual sneers at Churchill the figure of the British Prime Minister grew in our minds to incredible greatness and strength. If they hated him so much, he must be dangerous to them. The thought of distant England never left us, it was the source of all our steadfastness under examination, of all our surety of victory.

The following incident has stuck in my memory. One day the Germans came in a little drunk. They ordered us to sit down on the bench. Only I, as the interpreter, was left standing. They called the prelate and a Jewish merchant out from the rest. Then they ordered the priest to strike the Jew on the face. When the priest refused they said: "*Schlage ihm, er hat Christus getoetet.*" (Hit him, he killed Christ.) The priest struck the Jew gently on the face, at which a Gestapo man said he did not know how to use his fists, and, striking the priest on the face with all his force, shouted: "That's the way to hit him," and added with a laugh: "*Jetzt wird Christus den Moses aufs Maul schlagen.*" (Now Christ will hit Moses on the mug.) The priest was forced to hit the Jew harder. Then they turned to the Jew and attempted to shame him with the words: "Why did you let Christ hit you like that, Moses?" This amusement went on for several minutes, the Germans finding it highly diverting.

Another time the Gestapo men gave us a theological lecture, declaring that man could not be God, that the universe was *Unendlichkeit* (Endlessness), that currents (*Stroemungen*) circulated through this infinite in continual movement, they being the only reality. I had to interpret all this word by word. After each sentence the Gestapo men asked the priest standing beside me, with a laugh: "*Nicht wahr, dicker Churchill?*" (Isn't that so, fatty Churchill?) When they began to repeat their question categorically and waited for an answer, the priest, who was then very ill and weak, answered with a cross-question: "But who governs the currents?" I swiftly said to him in Polish: "Father, I won't translate that, it'll only cause trouble." The priest firmly answered: "Translate it, let them do as they like." When I repeated the priest's question in German, I shall never forget the momentary consternation into which it threw the Germans. They were silent for several seconds, then the "lecturer" shouted: "I do," and gave the priest a swinging blow on the face. The priest spat the blood out of his mouth and with a muffled cry, holding his face, flung himself into a corner of the cell.

Another time when the Gestapo men came in, one of them had a little stork of celluloid. They began to dig the priest on the face with its beak, laughing: "Your Lord

has sent you a present, you'll be having a Christening." Another time, when the whip was worn out they brought a new one, painted red. The priest had to stand by a bowl of water and Christen the whip, which was given the name of "Jew."

Once they brought in a wooden crucifix carved by Carpathian mountaineers, showing all the signs of the Lord's torments, the spear, the nails, the ladder, and so on. They asked the priest what each article meant. When they came to the ladder he said it had been used when Christ was taken down from the Cross. Then they said: "*Du bist dumm.*" (You're a fool.) "The ladder is for something quite different. All you priests want to climb up to heaven up such a ladder, together with all your flock, but God will thrust you down right into hell, where Chamberlain is already, for you Polish priests are not prepared to obey the Pope."

During one of the theological discussions the Germans asked what the priest really believed. This was not long before he died. He said to me: "Great God, what shall I answer so that they don't beat us? Tell them I believe in the Word of Christ." As the interpreter was not allowed to refer to him as a priest, I said: "*Er sagt, dass er glaubt an das Wort Christi.*" After a moment the Gestapo men asked: "And do you all believe in the Word of Christ also?" We were all put to consternation and were terrified. All the prisoners, and there were 18 or 19 of us, sat very still on the benches. Not one answered. Only after some seconds did a young landowner and an engineer get up and say quietly in German: "*Und wir glauben auch an das Wort Christi.*" (We too believe in the Word of Christ.) Then all the others with one voice declared that



A postcard giving the postal regulations of the camp, sent by a prisoner from the concentration camp at Dachau.

they also believed. I thought we were in for some heavy punishment, but the Germans began to laugh, and I remember that one said: "*Lass die Idioten in Ruhe, das sind alle bloedsinnige Kerle.*" (Leave the idiots alone, they're all silly fools.)

All the prisoners were treated along these same lines. For the pettiest fault a revolver was set against your head and you were threatened with death. After some months of this one got accustomed to it, and we all got indifferent somehow even to death, while some looked upon it as a means of liberation.

One day the Gestapo men brought in a Jewish merchant. He had been accused of concealing a large stock of clothing and material. They tried to force him to say in front of us all where his store was. At the order "*Bucke dich*" they thrashed him with the whip, and when he dropped they kicked and beat him on the floor. After some time they resorted to other methods. A Gestapo man said: "*Du alter Schmarotzer, sage, wo hast du dein Lager, du willst doch deine Kinder und Frau sehen.*" (You old parasite, tell us where you have got your stores, if you wish to see your children and wife again.) And he put a revolver to the man's head. The Jew was terribly afraid; he fell to the floor and kissed the Gestapo man's boots, clinging to them with both hands. His words, in Yiddish, still ring in my ears: "*Off Gott ich hab kein Lager.*" (By God, I haven't got any store.) He was told to repeat a sentence which I have forgotten. When he said it in a low tone, another Jew, on

(Please turn to page 11)

POLISH FISHING INDUSTRY



DEEP SEA FISHING CUTTERS

WHEN after the last war Poland recovered the maritime province of Pomorze, her fishermen had some 800 skiffs and 100 cutters and low-power motor boats. Standard fishing equipment consisted of trap-nets, bow-nets and salmon tackle. The fisherman did not go out to sea to catch fish, but waited until they hit the spot where he had stretched his nets. Germany had always striven to keep the Polish fisherman at the bottom of the social scale. No state aid in any form was ever offered to these hard-working toilers of the seas.

The Pomeranians' plight was finally alleviated when Poland re-entered her long-lost province. To raise the standard of living in Pomorze and to promote fishing on a larger scale, the

State Agricultural Bank began to grant loans to the fishermen. The Maritime Fishing Office in Puck made outright grants in the event of disaster and loss of equipment. To encourage fishermen to make longer trips, premiums were awarded for trips lasting more than two days. In addition there were rewards for killing walruses and other predatory denizens of the deep. These government appropriations helped considerably, but they could not solve the multitude of problems arising in this young Polish industry. So in 1927 the affairs of sea fishing were taken over by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the following year the Maritime Fishing Office moved to Gdynia. 1928 also saw the organization in Gdynia of the Maritime Fishing Institute, a social institution, to supplement government activity in this field. Thus in 1927 Polish fishing took a big step forward. Not only was there a tremendous increase in the size of the annual haul, but Polish fishing moved out beyond the home waters of the Baltic. The number of cutters and motor boats soon doubled, powerful motors were installed while the extensive use of a dragnet permitted the exploitation of the winter sprat season when schools of sprats moved along the seacoast from the Atlantic and filled the Bay of Danzig. That these measures yielded results may be seen from the fact that while in the decade between 1920 and 1930 the yearly sprat crop had averaged 500 tons, by 1932 it had risen to more than 6,000 tons. The Government also

built and sold on the installment plan to the more deserving fishermen, large cutters equipped with high-powered motors and especially suited for dragnet fishing and for long-distance trips to waters abounding in flounders. These cutters were built by the Gdynia shipyards and their motors came from the "Perkun" factory in Warsaw.

Polish fisherfolk met their payments regularly, proving that the Maritime Fishing Office knew how to choose its men and that the Polish fisherman-sailor is well worth supporting. Indeed, in less than twenty years a new type of Polish fisherman came into being. Poles from all parts of the country — adventurous, enterprising, unhampered by routine, often unaware of the dangers and difficulties lurking on the open sea, and yet able by their endurance and accurate orientation to take care of themselves, flocked to Gdynia.

The Polish Government took special pains to foster deep-sea fishing. It lent its support in 1931 to the "MOPOL" fishing company which sent out boats to the international herring areas off the coast of England, where it not only caught the fish but also salted them. The company also had facilities for training ship and shore personnel to meet the steadily growing demand for sea hands.

Another well-known deep-sea fishing company, started in 1933, without benefit of government subsidy, was the "MEWA."

The domestic market for salt herrings — Poland was second only to Germany in herring consumption — augured well for the expansion of Polish deep-sea fishing. This in turn was improving Poland's trade balance, as fish imports declined. It also opened up a new field, the fish packing industry, which could employ large numbers of people in the various smoking, pickling and packing processes.

Sprats, both in oil and smoked, were Poland's most important fish item. Close to 10,000 men and women were employed by the preserving and smoking plants on the Polish coast. The smoking factories of Jastarnia, Kuznica, Puck and Gdynia ran a triple shift during the sprat season, packing some million cases of smoked sprats. Sprats in oil took the place of Norwegian "sardines", Riga stremlings and other fish preserves put up in Poland from imported fish.

The seaport of Gdynia was very fish-minded. One of the earliest installations in this modern wonder-city was an up-to-date fish market and refrigerating plant supplemented by an ice factory which provided the necessary protection for fish sent into the country and abroad. The huge market and refrigerator was intended to serve as an exchange center between the fisherman and the buyer. However,

it soon proved too small. For importer and exporter were quick to take advantage of its facilities. Fresh and salted herrings brought from Norway, England and other countries passed through the fish market in Gdynia, where they were repacked and sent by rail to Polish markets inland. Soon the need for additional space became so great that two herring storehouses with a capacity of 16,000

(Please turn to page 12)



EEL FROM THE POLISH SEA

THE DAY BEFORE OKSYWIE FELL

THE OKSYWIE promontory was wrapped in a sea of fire. It was shaking to its very foundations, relentlessly pounded from air, land, and sea. The battleship "Schleswig Holstein" that had arrived on a "visit" to Danzig just before the war, was now sending its "calling cards." Waves of bomber squadrons soared from enemy bases located only a few kilometers away, and paved the spur of land jutting into the sea with fragments of bursting bombs. The artillery, set up in Danzig itself, never stopped roaring for an instant, and its ominous thunder echoed against the walls of a city that was once ours . . . While all around, hemming us in, machine-gun bullets bit into our bastion of resistance and sacrifice.

And 'neath this dome, ringed in by fire, Polish sailors and marines, their numbers growing smaller daily, were making good the words of our song:

"Oh sea, our sea, truly shall we guard thee."

The fortress on the Polish peninsula of Hel still thundered out its lofty challenge and let us know that the Westerplatte was carrying out the order to hold the fort or die with honor.

Lieutenant P. was holding a post with his company in the front line trenches. Repeated attacks of German infantry, preceded by heavy artillery fire, did not make much of an impression on him or his men. They remained alert and grim. Under the grime and sweat covering their faces, not a muscle moved. Their hearing was dulled by constant explosions. Like yesterday and the day before, the falling dusk hypnotized them by its streaks of shining shells. The lieutenant was swearing from force of habit. These words, hard and rough, thrilled the soldiers to the core.

"A sailor," they whispered, "can't help himself."

And he had no desire to hide his feelings. He growled like a chained mastiff. Night after night, he cast prudence to the winds and taking a few men with him, crawled silently over to enemy positions. His return was lighted up by flares, while the bursting flashes of grenades mingled with sounds of panic among the enemy.

* * *

The last rusty rays of the setting sun barely shone through the thick clouds of smoke. The last German bomber squadron of the day, chinked and decimated, was coming in for a landing over Danzig. The overheated guns of the German cruiser seemed to shiver in the deceptive brilliance of sunset. The land ring of batteries was belching its last missiles. It was as if a swarm of buzzing bees clung to earth and vibrated in mute expectation. The furious fire that for four steady hours had been ploughing up every foot of Oksywie soil, was quieting down. In the distance appeared human shadows whose forms hardly stood out against the background of oncoming night. The assault was coming all along the line. Silence and dark-



... The Battleship "Schleswig Holstein" was now sending its "calling cards".

ness. Armed to the teeth, enemy detachments were approaching in attacking formation. They drew near without any great misgivings. For who could have remained alive after such a downpour of fire and iron? And if perchance someone escaped death, he must surely have lost all desire to fight!

Thus they came evening after evening, and each time their decimated ranks withdrew from before the Polish trenches. But today it would be different. After all, human endurance has its limits.

And it did have, but the limits were Polish.

Vevey lights, like bouquets of white flowers, blossomed from the trenches, and machine guns burst forth into song. But their song was brief. Suddenly they stopped.

The order of the previous day had been "Save ammunition!"

Today's command was passed from mouth to mouth, "Fix bayonets!"

"Ju-u-ump!" Martyred lungs breathed with difficulty. Our legs did not seem to belong to us. Stiff, wooden from constant standing and lack of movement, they stumbled over the uneven ground.

"Forward, run!" The whole body responded to do the will's bidding.

Here comes a battering-ram, bristling with steel. Shots ring out. Again an exchange of flares. It's light as day.

At a distance of twenty feet the enemy quivered and turned back. In the uncertain light of flares and explosions were silhouetted the heaving shoulders of the running figures. A number of short and easy encounters followed. No quarter was given. Fresh detonations clove the air. It was a signal for the Germans to withdraw, and a sign that the enemy artillery would again keep the Polish trenches under fire.



IN THE FRONT LINE TRENCHES

Our men come back surrounded by a seething whirling hell of bursting shells.

It was like this yesterday and the day before. It is so today and will be so tomorrow. And for how long will it go on? Despair tears at soldier hearts. Ah, to be able to stab and stab with the bayonet. They would stab their way to victory even if they should expire with the last thrust. Battered bodies are kept going by sheer will power.

Their lieutenant and his navy oaths are all they have left. They strain their eyes to locate him. Thank God, he's back. He did not fall. Their hearts are hopeful once more. And the lieutenant, breathing heavily, stopped for a moment at the edge of the trench and gazed in the direction whence whining shining bees, that sting mortally, began to fly thick and fast.

The mad fury of destruction once again swooped down on the cape of Oksywie. But the soldiers managed to fall asleep, for this is the only safe time for them to sleep without danger of being surprised. Sleep brings temporary oblivion.

* * *

At midnight the intensity of their cannon fire weakened. The lieutenant was stealing his way through the peat-bog. Three shadows held themselves at a short distance behind him. They walked quickly and the heavy curtain of night swallowed them up before they had gone more than a few yards from the trenches. A light rain deadened the sound of their footsteps.

Cannon balls were falling just behind them and machine gun fire passed to their side. Their feet sank into the marshy meadow. One of the soldiers, a Cassubian who knew the terrain, led the way. He was a sure guide. They were up to their knees in mud and at times found themselves waist-deep in it. Finally, they came upon solid



POLISH ARTILLERY IN 1939

OLD POLISH ARMOR (Cont. from page 7)

dazzling impression, the horses themselves were sometimes painted in gorgeous colors. Mme. de Motteville records that when the Polish delegation came to Paris in 1646 to fetch Marie-Louise, bride-to-be of King Ladislaus IV, some of the horses were painted red. A member of the delegation also told her that twenty horses of this fantastic procession were shod with silver horseshoes. The horse of the Voivode of Poznan had horseshoes of pure gold, one of which was purposely fastened loosely so that it might be lost and cause the lucky finder to extol the distinguished guests.

The crowning touch of the Polish warrior of old was a lion, tiger or leopard skin. Pinned together with glittering golden brooches, it was thrown over the shoulder and armor. Animal skins were also popular as coverings for horses.

ground — the road. They hid in the ditch. Step by step, holding their breath, they inched their way forward. The heavy thud of the patrol sounded over their heads. But the patrol was too confident and not very alert.

The lieutenant again took the lead. He evidently had a definite aim in mind. Behind a small stone barricade a German heavy machine gun sputtered angrily.

The approaching shadows stopped for a moment and then hawk-like, swooped down on their prey. The struggle was soon over. A bayonet lunge, a muffled death rattle, and the gun suddenly fell silent. The monster's eyes became extinguished. Those glittering orbs that pierced the unsuspecting, that tore the nerves of the living into shreds, were no more.

Strong hands lifted the monster from the ground and an hour later it shivered ecstatically in the service of its new masters.

The next day the Germans did not attack. In-

stead, the artillery hammered at us without pause. And the lieutenant again led the sortie. This time he took enough people to drag a field piece over. But having hardly emerged from the trench, he fell, hit by a whistling shell splinter.

The loyal soldiers who pulled in his body wept openly. He lived only one day less than he had intended, for Oksywie capitulated the next day.

"The day of capitulation", he used to say, "will be the day of my death. Tell my wife I could not decide otherwise. Tell her it was nothing . . ."

For in his noble soul were reflected Poland's by-gone heroes. In their ranks this native of Gdynia's countryside has taken his place, his chest decorated with the black and blue ribbon of Poland's highest award, the Virtuti Militari.

— BRON. GUB.

I WAS A PRISONER OF THE GESTAPO

(Continued from page 8)

the verge of madness, from another cell was brought in. He had been taught to shout out: "Ich bin ein dreckiger Jude, Gauner, Zigeuner, Schwein, ein Riesen-Rindvieh und ein Ur-vieh." (I am a filthy Jew, rogue, gypsy, pig, a monstrous cattle and beast of beasts.) Next morning I took the Jewish merchant to the doctor and we attended to his wounds. On his body were holes nearly an inch deep, from which we cleaned out a bloodstained froth with cottonwool. Then we took him back to the cell. Where he sat on the bench it was soaked with blood, and we afterwards had to scrub it. After some days, the Gestapo men gave permission for him to be transferred to the hospital cell farther along the corridor, where the stench from his festering wounds was so strong that we could hardly endure it.

(Continued from page 9)

barrels were built right on the fishing pier.

Poland has demonstrated that the 44 miles constituting the Polish seacoast were placed in the right hands. That miracle of achievement — Gdynia, the network of railroad lines uniting the country with the sea, the rapid building up of a merchant marine — all testify to this. But Poland did even more. True to her customary eagerness to explore all fields of progress, she set up research centers to study the sea. The most important of these were the Maritime Station at Hel and a Maritime Section of the State Meteorological Institute. The Maritime Station was an experimental laboratory established for the purpose of studying the fauna and flora of the Baltic. Its numerous nets, aquariums, microscopes, instruments for measuring currents and for sampling mire and water were used by the permanent staff and by visiting scientists.

The Station's Fishing Unit in Gdynia concentrated on practical problems having a direct and immediate bearing on the fishing industry. It was interested not only in the fish themselves but in the plant and animal life that served as nourishment for the fish.

Another function of the Maritime Station was to serve as a summer training post for University students mastering the biology of the sea. Its museum had an especially rich collection of Baltic fauna.

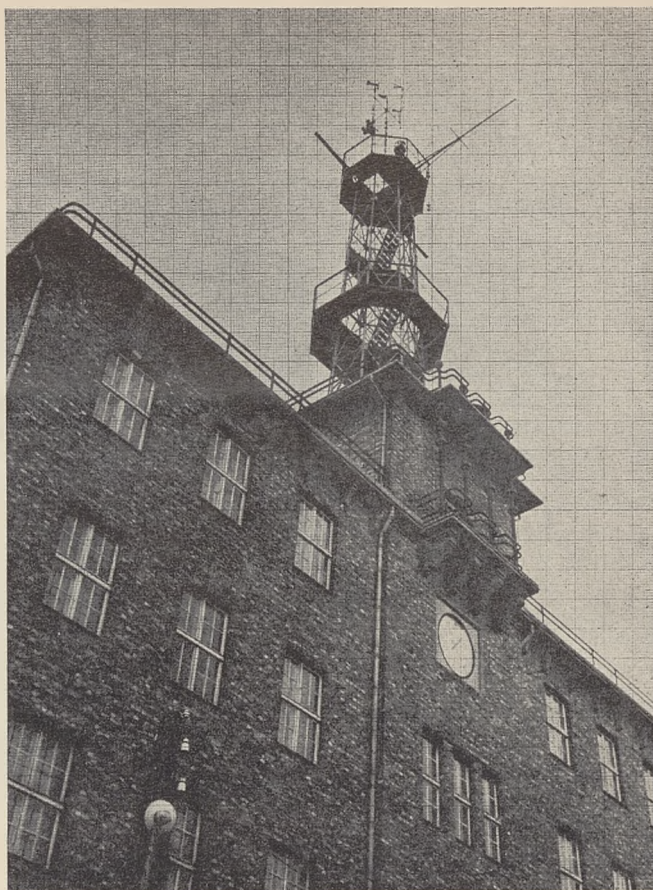
The Maritime Station was headed by Professor Michal Siedlecki, famed piscatologist of the Jagiellonian University, who has recently been murdered by the Germans.

The Maritime Section of the Polish Meteorological Institute was housed in an imposing building in Gdynia and maintained a number of meteorological observation posts to furnish data and weather forecasts to sailors and fishermen. Most important was the Magnetic-Meteorological Station in Hel. In addition to its practical activity, this Section was also engaged in research, and new departments were constantly being added. Within a few years after its organization, it had well-equipped meteorological, synoptic, aerological, magnetic, cartographical, astronomical, and hydrological laboratories.

Both the Maritime Station and the Maritime Section of PIM (as the Polish Meteorological Institute was popularly called) kept in constant touch with other international research stations.

Baltic sea life offers a fascinating field to the student of zoology. As the waters of the Baltic contain only one-fifth of the salt found in the Atlantic, something less than 7 percent, they harbor both ocean and fresh water fish. Cods, codlings, flounders, herrings and sprats, swim side by side with pike and bleak. It is no uncommon sight to see close to shore, a school of perches swimming through a colony of cuttle-fish.

There are more than fifty types of fish around Hel. Many of

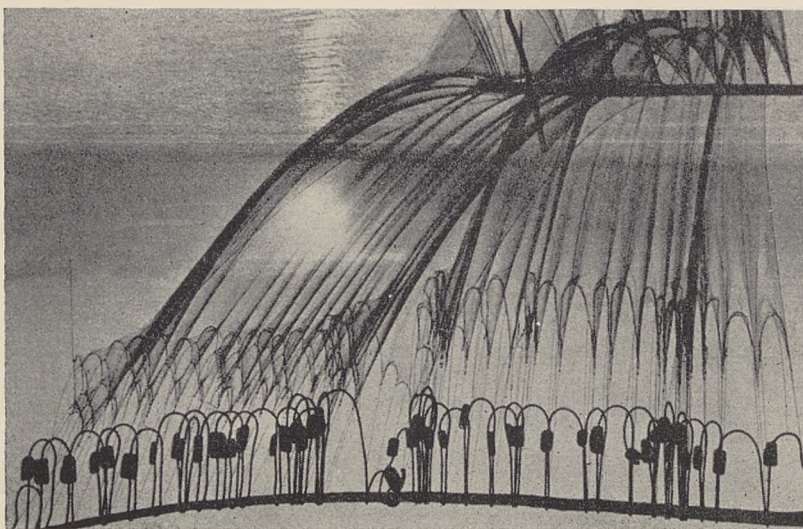


POLISH WEATHER REPORTS WERE ISSUED FROM HERE
Tower of the Polish Meteorological Institute in Gdynia.

these are strange and interesting. Baltic flounders, for instance, lie at the bottom of the sea, on one side, which is colorless. The other exposed side is colored. The head is grotesquely twisted and its mobile eyes are both in the upper side. They swim by making small leaps, only to fall to the bottom and bury themselves in the sand.

No less interesting are the 125 types of invertebrates found in Polish waters. Some of the crustaceans, hard-shelled and soft-shelled, are relics of the ice age, when the Baltic formed part of the Arctic Ocean. Others are similar to types inhabiting the warm waters of Southern Seas.

Few things were as dear to the Pole as his Polish sea. For it, he was willing to make the greatest sacrifice. This sacrifice was not in vain for it proved once and for all to the world that Poland needs the sea and that the sea needs Poland.



WHEN THE FISHING DAY IS OVER . . .